

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 14 MARCH 2004

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

Reception reports on the 10,130 MHz experimental relay will be appreciated.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za and on packet bulletin boards.

SILENT KEY

It is with regret that we have to announce the passing of Chris Nagel ZS6CGP of Witbank on the 5th of March. Chris was very active on the air, especially with AM musical transmissions.

To his wife, Louisa ZS6LN, other relatives and friends, our sincere condolences.

(PAUSE)

In the news today

REPORT ON THE FORMATION OF THE DIVISION 1 FORUM

AUTOMATIC POSITION REPORTING SYSTEM (APRS)

STATUS OF THE REGULATIONS SUBMITTED TO ICASA

TINUS LANGE 7066 TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

SARL VHF/UHF CONTEST

Stay tuned for more detail on these and other news items.

Visit the SARL Web site or call the SARL office which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

SARL NEWS invites clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to amateurs on the web site of the SARL, which is www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English.

You are listening to ZS6SRL.

The news follows in detail.

REPORT ON THE FORMATION OF THE DIVISION 1 FORUM.

The Division 1 Forum, which was reported on in the SARL bulletin of 28 February was established on Saturday 6 March at Swellendam.

21 representatives from the following clubs were present:

Cape Town Amateur Radio Centre; Boland Amateurradioklub; Overberg Amateurradioklub; Oakdale Amateur Radio Club; Suidkaap Amateurradioklub; Gizmo Radioklub; Winelands Amateur Radio Club; Garden Route Amateur Radio Club.

It was decided to rename the Forum to the “Western Cape Amateur Radio Forum”.

A management committee was chosen with the following members: Chairman Marten Holland, ZS1SM; Vice chairman Abe Zwiegelaar, ZS1ZS; Secretary Karl Canitz, ZS1KC; Treasurer Rassie Erasmus, ZS1YT.

Further more, each club will be represented on the forum by two delegates. All SARL council members with ZS1 call signs will serve as ex-officio members of the forum.

A constitution has been drawn up for the forum and has been accepted. A copy of the constitution is available at www.qsl.net/zs1ct and follows just after the switch to “forum”.

It was unanimously accepted that the Western Cape Amateur Radio Forum has the goal to promote the SARL and amateur radio.

A copy of the minutes of the inaugural meeting and the constitution have already been posted on the packet network.

AUTOMATIC POSITION REPORTING SYSTEM (APRS)

A couple of local APRS users would like to get together with Ton, ZS6ANA - (Digital Council Portfolio) at the NARS to discuss the implementation of APRS in Gauteng and possible growth in the rest of SA.

The plan is to combine it with the Southern African Antique Wireless Association (SAAWA) get-together on the 20th March at 10:30.

All interested parties are asked to attend so that a formalized plan can be made.

For further information, please contact ANDY, ZS6CEY, on 082-444-9047, or via email, andyc@netstar.altech.co.za.

STATUS OF THE REGULATIONS SUBMITTED TO ICASA

Graham Hartlett ZS6GJH, the President of the SARL, informed SARLNews that the radio regulations were submitted to the ICASA council on the 17th February. The Council subsequently referred them back to the Technical Policy Committee. This committee reviewed them on the 23rd February. The document was resubmitted to the ICASA council and approved for publication. During the week of the 8th March 2004 they were published for a period of 30 days for public comment.

Graham also told SARLnews that it has been reported that members and non-members of the SARL are communicating directly with ICASA and the minister's office. “While I appreciate your frustration with the process, talking

directly to ICASA or the minister's office at this time is not helping our position at all. Members please address your comments to the league that we may have a united front in our dealings with ICASA. Your co-operation in this matter will be greatly appreciated," says Graham.

TINUS LANGE 7066 TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The Tinus Lange 7066 Technical Excellence Award and Tinus Lange 7066 Junior Technical Excellence Award is bestowed annually on the persons who submit a technical project in any of the following categories:

- a. Design and/or construction of projects such as a pre-amp, SWR bridge, patching unit, automatic ID-er, practical antenna ideas, mast, portable gear, power supplies etc., OR
- b. Any software for use in Amateur Radio

The submission must include the following:- the actual items (if size and mass allows it) or photographs (particularly in the case of antennas/mast etc) and a complete write-up in article form with illustrations/pictures ready for publication in Radio ZS.

The actual artifact needs to be at the NARC two weeks prior to the AGM, but the supporting documentation MUST be in the stated form - i.e. a press ready article for Radio ZS plus any other documents - and be delivered to the NARC not later than the 31st March. All entries will be displayed (where practical, otherwise photographs) at the AGM and the awards will be presented at the annual dinner. The two awards made are the Junior Technical Achievement Award (Under 25 years of age), a framed certificate and a cash award of R350 and the Technical Achievement Award, a framed certificate and a cash award of R350.

SARL VHF/UHF CONTEST

The first leg of the 2004 SARL VHF/UHF Contest will be held over the weekend of 20 and 21 March 2004. The contest starts at 10:00 UTC (12:00 CAT) on Saturday the 20th and ends 24 hours later. The aim of this contest is to promote activity on the VHF and UHF bands and the contest is open to all licensed Radio Amateurs in South Africa and neighbouring states.

Activity will be on 6, 4 and 2 metres as well as 70 and 23 cm using CW, FM or SSB. The exchange is call sign, RS(T) and a grid locator. The rules can be downloaded from the SARL website at www.sarl.org.za. Competitors should please not use the international calling frequency of 50,110 MHz in the 6 m band for competition contacts. When a station is met on this frequency, please ask him to QSY to a frequency previously selected by you. In other bands there are also enough simplex channels, other than the national calling frequencies available for competition contacts, please endeavour to make more use of them this time. Enjoy the competition!

DISCOVERING AMATEUR RADIO - 20th MARCH AT THE NARC.

Join the Muddlers Net and the Southern African Antique Wireless Association (SAAWA) for a morning of presentations, demonstrations and static displays of a variety of radio technology themes.

Topics include :

The use of, Programmable Integrated Circuits (PIC), for radio and test equipment design.

The ZS5WC "Griffen" QRP 40 metre transceiver.

Theory and design of a noise squasher.

A low cost 40 metre cw transceiver.

Antenna design and construction for confined spaces.

Several antique receivers and transmitters will be on display.

The SAAWA will run their weekly on-the-air meeting from the Reno Faber Memorial Station using their call sign ZS0AWA.

Tea and coffee will be served as of 08:30. The presentations will commence at 09:00.

SOLAR ACTIVITY

Sun gazer Tad "Tequila Sunrise" Cook, K7RA, Seattle, Washington, reports:

Average daily sunspot numbers dropped from the week February 26-March 3 by nearly 24 points, and average daily solar flux was about the same, down by slightly more than two points. On March 9, Earth passed into a solar wind, and geomagnetic indices rose. At mid latitudes HF bands were probably usable on March 9 and 11 but not on March 10.

Over the next few days geomagnetic conditions should settle down. Solar flux should drop down to around 100 by the beginning of the week (Monday, March 15).

A large sunspot, number 570 is moving into the center of the visible solar disk, directly facing Earth. It is a possible source of flares.

(Item condensed from the ARRL newsletter).

ACTIVITIES IN WHICH TO PARTICIPATE

15 to 19 March - ZS6MRK special station at the Science Expo; 20 to 21 March - The VHF/UHF contest; 20 March - Discover amateur radio at the NARS; Thursday 01 April the first 80-metre QSO Party at 19:00 CAT; Sunday 11 April the SARL HAMNET 40-Metre Simulated Emergency Contest from 14:00 to 16:00 CAT.

The SARL invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 17 815, 9 750, and 7 082 kHz and 145,625 MHz in East London, 145,650 in Durban

145,750 MHz in Pretoria and 438,800 in the Sandton area. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 21:00 CAT on 3 215 kHz.

Telkom and Sentech sponsor ARMI.

This then brings us to the end of today's bulletin, which was compiled by Gustav, ZS6BWN, and read byfrom..... as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL and thank you for having joined us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX